

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE

Friday, March 26, 2021

A Very Particular Set of Skills: Investigating Human Trafficking

Presented by:

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Distributed by:

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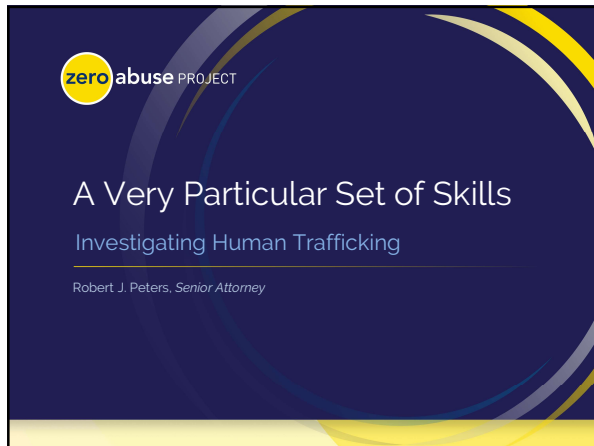
ELIZABETH BURTON ORTIZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



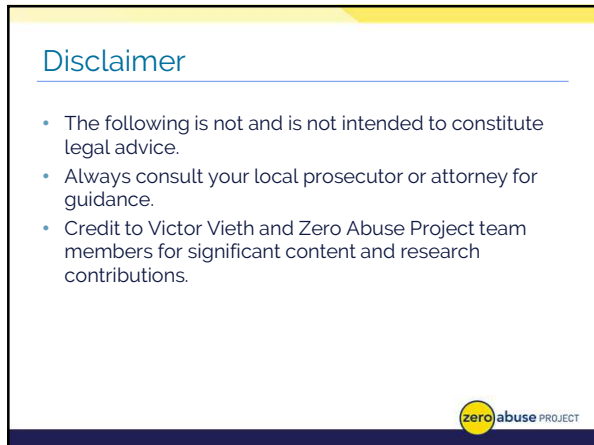
The Governor's Office
of Youth, Faith
and Family



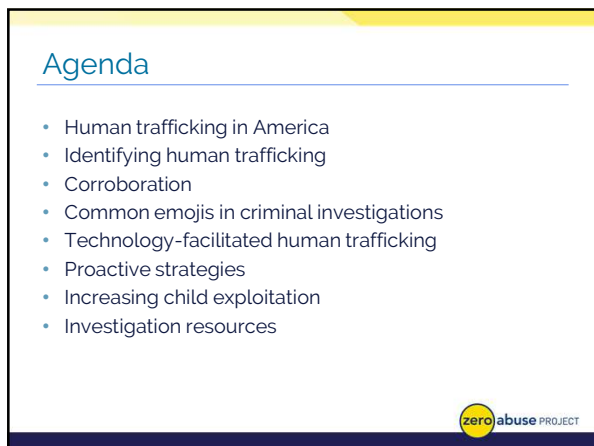
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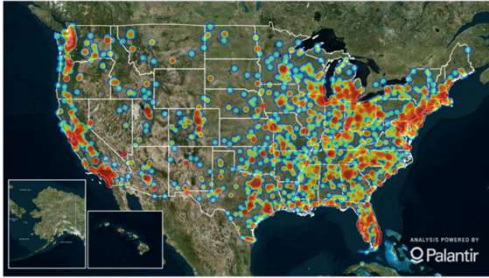


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Human Trafficking in America



Source: Polaris 2007-2019

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What Human Trafficking Is (and Is Not)

- **Definition:** Compelling another person to provide labor, services, or commercial sex
- **Two types of human trafficking:**
 - labor trafficking
 - sex trafficking
- **What is NOT human trafficking:**
 - Child sexual abuse material
 - Adult prostitution
 - Unsafe working conditions
 - Labor violations

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Federal Law

- Labor Trafficking – 18 U.S.C. § 1589
- Sex Trafficking – 18 U.S.C. § 1591

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Legal Elements of Human Trafficking

- Action + Means + Purpose
 - Action: Recruit, entice, harbor, transport, provide, obtain, advertise, maintain, patronize, solicit any person
 - Means: Force, fraud, or coercion
 - Purpose: Commercial sex acts, OR labor or services
- NO MEANS ELEMENT when minors are used for commercial sex
- Minors: traffickers must have "reasonable opportunity to observe"



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Statistics

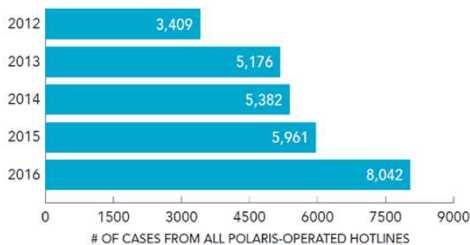
- According to the International Labour Organization:
 - 20.9 million victims globally
 - \$150 billion profit, annually
 - 73% of reported cases were sex trafficking (2016)
 - Most victims were first trafficked as minors
- According to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC):
 - 18,500 children reported as runaways in 2016
 - 1 in 6 trafficked
 - 86% of trafficking victims were in foster care



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Reported HT Cases in U.S.

Cases of Human Trafficking per Year



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Kidnappings

Kidnapping is rarely used for initiation into human trafficking. The top 5 risk factors are:

1. Recent migration or relocation
2. Substance use
3. Runaway/homeless youth
4. Mental health concern
5. Involvement in the child welfare system

Source: Blackburn Center, "How Viral Posts About Human Trafficking Cover Up a Bigger Problem," 2019
<https://www.blackburncenter.org/single-post/2019/12/18/How-Viral-Posts-About-Human-Trafficking-Cover-Up-a-Bigger-Problem>

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Top human trafficking recruitment tactics

SEX TRAFFICKING

Intimate partner/marriage proposition 711

Familial 525

Posing as benefactor 397

Job offer 209

False promises/fraud 195

(Based on information specified by 2,136 victims)

LABOR TRAFFICKING

Job Offer 704

False promises/fraud 471

Smuggling related 200

Familial 162

Posing as a benefactor 110

(Based on information specified by 1,230 victims)

Source: Blackburn Center (citing Polaris)

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Identifying Human Trafficking

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Identifying Human Trafficking

- May be mistaken for or connected to other crimes (e.g., sexual assault, domestic violence, or drug distribution)
- Be thorough, especially in the initial phase of investigation
- Victims may be initially uncooperative in the investigation
- Proactive approaches and operations are crucial



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Victim Identification

Exploiting vulnerability is key to human trafficking.

Common victim characteristics:

- Minor female
- Abuse victim (sexual, physical, emotional)
- Substance use
- Poverty
- Runaway/homeless
- Foster care involvement
- Disabled



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Trafficking Indicators

- Common characteristics (previous slide)
- Restricted freedom of movement
- Sexually explicit online profiles
- Debt to employer
- Lack of personal possessions
- Tattoos of currency, money bags, or another's name
- Large cash or debit card quantity
- Several communication devices
- Several hotel key cards



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Behavioral Trafficking Indicators

- Lying about age or identity
- Defensive or hesitant to answer personal questions
- Resists offers of assistance
- Slang prostitution terms



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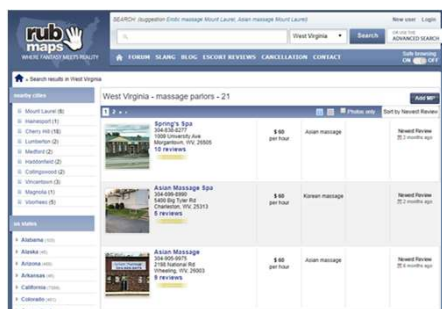
Human Trafficking Contexts

- Social media
- Truck stops
- Massage parlors
- Travel
- Rural



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Massage Parlors



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B&S:	bait and switch = person who shows up is a different one than advertised.
babyback:	petite, young, attractive Asian.
balloons:	breast implants.
BB:	bareback = without condom.
BJ:	blowjob = oral sex = fellatio.
BBBJ:	bare back blow job = BJ without condom, beebabeejay.
BBBJTC:	bare back blow job to completion (in mouth).
BBBJTCIM:	bare back blow job to completion in mouth.
BBBJTCNQNS:	bare back blow job to completion, no quit, no spit.
BBBJTCNWS:	bare back blow job to completion with swallow.
BBBJWF:	bare back blow job with facial.
BBFS:	bare back sex.
BBK:	big beautiful knockers.



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Travel

Russian Girl Massage in Town Aug 22-Aug 29

Posted: Thursday, August 22, 2013 1:01 PM

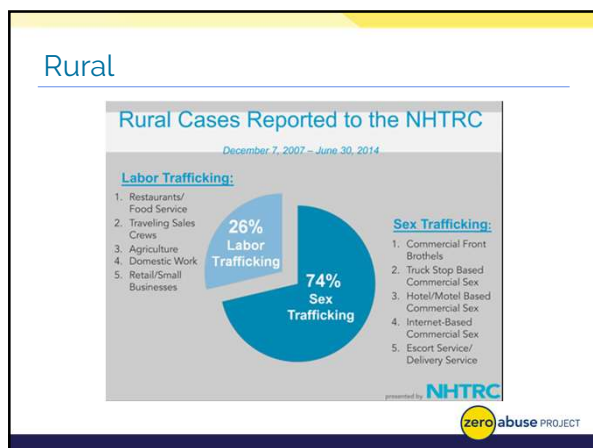
Reply [click here](#)

Come check out our latest Russian girls! Now taking appointments. Massage only =) Book now. [Our Reviews](#)

- Location: Charleston, Eastern Panhandle, Huntington-Ashland, Morgantown, Northern Panhandle, Parkersburg-Marietta, Southern West Virginia, Outcall
- Post ID: 2861278 morgantown



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Working With Victims

- Prioritize victim safety and needs
- Call local LE and report to
- Expect victim denial of "victim" status
- Some have stated similarities to working with domestic violence victims
- Understand safety concerns
- Avoid blaming behaviors and take a trauma-informed perspective and approach
- Educate yourself on local resources for trafficking victims



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Trafficker Methods

- Demanding quotas
- Forcing substance use
- Leverage debt
- Physically or sexually assaulting victims
- Psychological manipulation
- Isolation and surveillance



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Corroboration



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Potential Avenues of Corroboration

- Look for evidence of grooming, which is increasingly done online through social media or gaming platforms.
- Target communication networks used by traffickers, buyers, and victims.
- Look for commonalities between advertisements and acts.



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Forensic interview as roadmap



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Interviewing Victims and Witnesses

- Most victims will not self-identify until their 7-10th encounter with law enforcement.
- Victims are often runaway juveniles. Talk to their family and friends.
- Victims may still be under the influence of alcohol or substances.
- Rapport building can be a longer process given frequent distrust of law enforcement.

Sources: Thorn, "Inside Human Trafficking Investigations," 2019 <https://www.thorn.org/blog/what-human-trafficking-investigations-look-like/>; Thorn, "Using Spotlight to investigate human trafficking," 2019 <https://www.thorn.org/blog/using-spotlight-to-investigate-human-trafficking/>



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Rule 404(b), Lustful Disposition Evidence

- Rule 404(b) admissible purposes: proving motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, identity, absence of mistake, lack of accident
- W/V: lustful disposition towards victim, children generally, or specific other children
- Consider:
 - "Slipped in shorts"
 - Multiple daughters
- Be proactive



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What evidence might be found on a cell phone in a typical trafficking case?



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Evidence on Mobile Devices

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call logs (received, sent, missed) • Photographs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – EXIF data • Video/audio • Online accounts • Email • Social media accounts • Banking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text and video messaging • CSLI • Billing information • Internet/data usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Browser history • Identifiers/subscriber information • Connected devices • Others? |
|---|---|

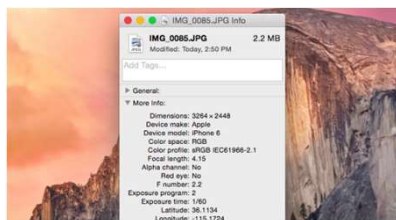
Eoghan Casey & Benjamin Turnbull, Digital Evidence on Mobile Devices



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EXIF data

- Most modern cameras (including smartphones) embed GPS coordinates in the metadata of photos

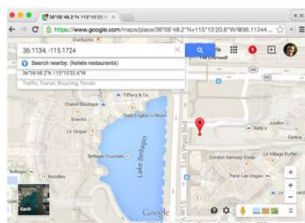


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EXIF Data

- Most modern cameras (including smartphones) embed GPS coordinates in the metadata of photos taken
- Many platforms (Facebook) remove from uploaded images



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Cell Site Location Information

- "Cell phones perform their wide and growing variety of functions by continuously connecting to a set of radio antennas called "cell sites." Each time a phone connects to a cell site, it generates a time-stamped record known as **cell-site location information (CSLI)**."
 - *Carpenter v. United States*, 138 S. Ct. 2206, 2208 (2018)
- Includes latitude and longitude information
- Could introduce via investigator testimony or...

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Cell Site Location Information



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Corroboration Often Leads to Confession

Suspect Confession of Child Sexual Abuse to Investigators

Tonya Lippert,^{1,2} Theodore P. Cross,³ Lisa Jones,⁴ and Wendy Walsh⁴

Abstract
Increasing the number of suspects who give true confessions of sexual abuse serves justice and reduces the burden of the criminal justice system on child victims. While data from four jurisdictions, this study examined confession rates and predictors of confession of child sexual abuse over the course of criminal investigations (total N = 282). Overall, 36% of suspects confessed partially or fully to the crime. This rate was consistent across the jurisdictions and is very similar to the rate of suspect confession of child sexual abuse found by previous research, although lower than that from a study focused on a community with a rigorous process of polygraph testing. In a multivariate analysis, confession was more likely when suspects were younger and when more evidence of abuse was available, particularly child disclosure and corroborative evidence. These results suggest the efficacy of obtaining confessions but also the value of methods that facilitate child disclosure and seek corroborative evidence, for increasing the odds of confession.

Keywords
child sexual abuse, confession, criminal justice, disclosure, evidence, children's advocacy centers

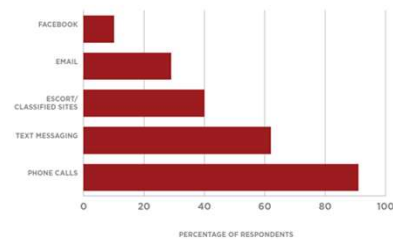
- Corroborating evidence more than DOUBLES confession rates
- Reduces child stress during court process
 - Lipovsky (1994)
- "A powerful predictor of charging"
 - Walsh, Jones, Cross & Lippert (2010)

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How Traffickers Communicate With Buyers

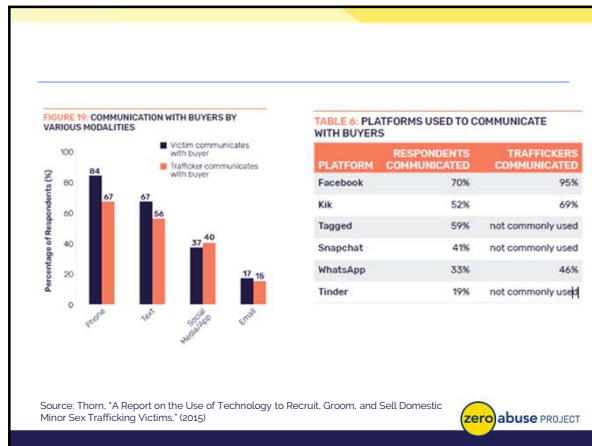
FIGURE 13: METHOD OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE BUYERS



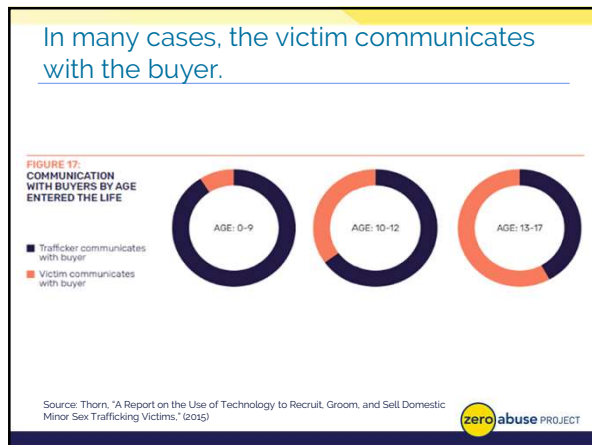
Source: Thorn, "A Report on the Use of Technology to Recruit, Groom, and Sell Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Victims," (2015)

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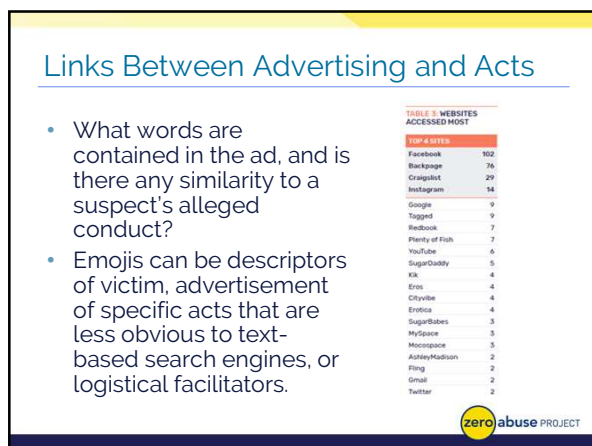
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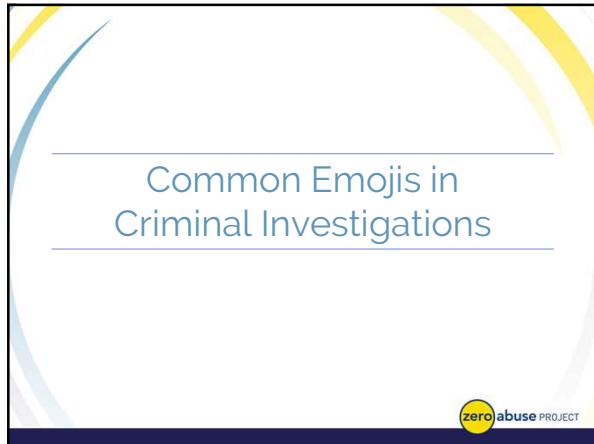
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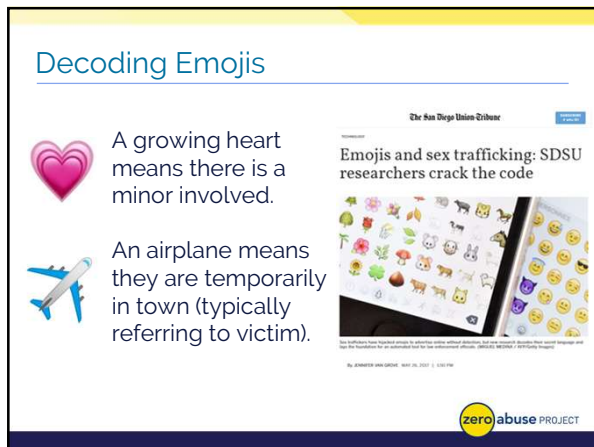
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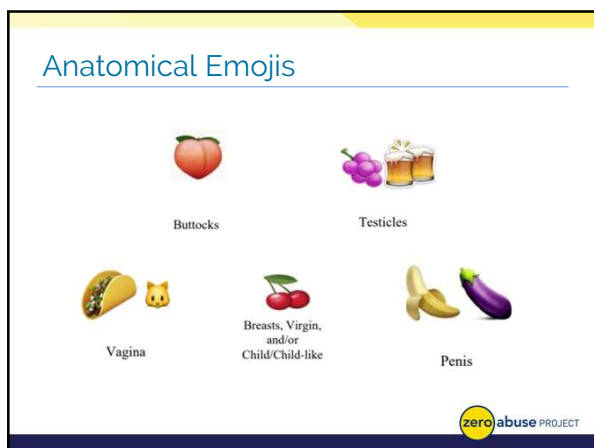
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People Emojis

	
Child/Child-like	Pimp or Money
	
Minor Under House Arrest or Pimp	Pair of trafficked girls
	
Child Virgin	

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Action Emojis

	
Female Orgasm/Orgasm	Oral Sex
	
Sexual Intercourse	Male Ejaculation
	
	Male Erection

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Technology Emojis


	
X-rated Chat	Seeing something X-rated
	
X-rated Video	Send X-rated Photos
	
	Make an X-rated Video

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Other Emojis

	
Temporarily in town	Dollars or "The Prize"
	
Attractive or Sexy	Condom



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Partnering With Service Providers

- A multidisciplinary approach is critical to meeting victim needs, and harmonious relationships between law enforcement and service providers can increase the likelihood of compliance (and therefore success).
- In many cases, service providers and law enforcement could collaboratively engage in safety planning.
- Service providers can assist law enforcement and prosecution by advocating for victim needs and providing support at trial or pretrial hearings.




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Confidentiality and Reporting

- Investigators must understand the different confidentiality obligations of specific service providers:
 - All advocates are mandated reporters (child abuse cases, APS, etc.).
 - System-based advocates can share information with prosecution and law enforcement agencies.
 - Community-based advocates must maintain confidentiality unless the victim signs a release or a court order provides otherwise.

Source: WV Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Dangerousness Lethality Assessment Guide (2017)



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Technology-Facilitated Human Trafficking

- The epidemic of online child exploitation and trafficking:
- 2004: NCMEC reviews 450,000 files of child sexual abuse material.
- 2018: NCMEC reviews 45 million files of child sexual abuse material.
- The FBI has estimated that "at any given moment three-quarters of a million people are looking for child pornography." (Source: ICMEC)



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More Statistics

- 63% of victimized children encountered by a major nonprofit, were advertised online.
- 150,000 new escort ads are posted on the Internet, daily—many of which are advertising children.
- 1,000 American children are arrested for prostitution, every year. (Source: Thorn)
- Up to 1 in 7 runaways reported to NCMEC were likely victims of sex trafficking. (Source: Thorn)
- 80% of ICAC investigators indicated that technology plays a very important role in sex trafficking cases. (Source: ICMEC)



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Vulnerable Children

- 52% of all juvenile arrests for commercial sex acts are African-American children.
- 91% of girls in Los Angeles' court for child sex trafficking victims are African-American or Latino.
- Studies show from 50-90% of child sex trafficking victims are involved in the child welfare system.
- 76% of surveyed Mediterranean refugees indicated that they were trafficked or exploited.

FIGURE 10: AVERAGE NUMBER OF BUYERS PER DAY



Source: Thorn, "Survivor Insights: The Role of Technology in Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking," (2018)

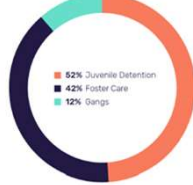


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Homeless Youth

- 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ (7% in general population).
- New York City study estimated that over 1 in 4 homeless children identifying as LGBTQ, and nearly half of boys identifying as gay or bisexual, are victims of child sexual exploitation.
- Another study has shown that 1/5 of homeless youth are victims of human trafficking. (Source: Covenant House New York)

FIGURE 6: RESPONDENT INVOLVEMENT IN GANGS, FOSTER CARE, AND JUVENILE DETENTION



Source: Thorn, "Survivor Insights: The Role of Technology in Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking," (2018)

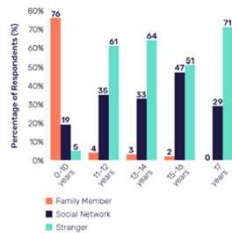


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Familial Involvement

- Nearly half of all known instances of child trafficking begins with familial involvement, and familial involvement is four times more prevalent in child trafficking than adult trafficking.

FIGURE 7: RELATIONSHIP TO TRAFFICKER BY AGE ENTERED THE LIFE



Source: Thorn, "Survivor Insights: The Role of Technology in Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking," (2018)



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Proactive Strategies

- Consider creative methods for identifying possible instances of human trafficking in local jurisdictions.
- "The Middle Man"
- "Pick Your Felony"



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Digital Evidence

- The rise in technology-facilitated human trafficking means that digital evidence abounds.

FIGURE 8: TYPE OF COMMERCIAL SEX OUTLET

Commercial Sex Outlet	Percentage of Respondents (%)
Strip	24
Sexual Abuse Imagery	16
Escort	41
Online Prostitution	51
Street Prostitution	42
Massage Parlor	8
Brothel	0

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Online Trafficking Locales

- Traditional sites (Backpage, Craigslist)
- Social media (Tinder, Tagged, Snapchat)
- Escort sites

Child sex traffickers may prefer social media platforms, since they foster gradual development of trust and perceived intimate relationships or friendships, enabling tactics of manipulation, coercion, control, and isolation.

(Source: International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC), Studies in Child Protection: Technology-Facilitated Child Sex Trafficking (2018))

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Skipthegames.com

Woman indicted in human trafficking

A Texas woman was indicted Thursday by a Bexar County grand jury for human trafficking involving a 16-year-old girl.

Linda Michelle "Curtis" Dooley, 38, is accused of setting up a profile for a 16-year-old girl on skipthegames.com, a site which allows users to post free advertisements for "escort services," according to a probable cause affidavit. Dooley allegedly arranged for the girl to prostitute herself with "approximately five clients per day" at a cost of \$200 per encounter.

The alleged victim was reported missing March 10 to the Bexar County Sheriff's Office. Investigators determined that the girl had been advertised on social media and internet sites promoting prostitution and that she might be staying at Dooley's residence in the 500 block of Waterman Street in Texarkana, Texas, according to records.

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Chathour.com

Tennessee man sentenced in Minnesota to 8 years in federal prison for traveling to have sex with 13-year-old girl

ST. PAUL, Minn. — An eastern Tennessee man was sentenced in federal court Friday for traveling to Minnesota to have sex with what he thought was a 13-year-old girl.

According to the defendant's guilty plea and documents filed in court, on June 12, 2015, Evans used the screen name "taboolooking" on a social media site called **chathour** com to initiate a conversation with another user whom he believed to be a 13-year-old girl. However, this user was actually an

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Increasing Child Exploitation

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Before COVID-19

- From 2007 to 2013, NCMEC experienced an increase of 5,000% in the number of child exploitation images reviewed (Hennessey 2017)
- Two DOJ operations identified 20 million devices accessing known CSAM (Seto 2013)
- 2009 UN report estimated 750,000 predators were actively attempting to sexually exploit children online
 - Now "the number is not considered measurable" (Hennessey 2017, p. 4).

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Peer-to-Peer Image Production

- Two-thirds of 12- to 18-year-old girls have been asked to provide explicit images of themselves.
- < 8% of girls who shared photos "wanted to"
 - Majority did so to please, acquiesce to, or avoid conflict others (Thomas 2017)



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Increase in Cyber Exploitation

- Child exploitation Cybertip hotline reports are up by an average of 30 percent globally
- NCMEC reports more than doubled
 - March 2019: 983,734 reports
 - March 2020: 2,027,520 reports
- Philippines Cybertips tripled during lockdown
 - March 2019: 983,734 reports
 - March 2020: 2,027,520 reports



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Still a Priority

"My pictures that are on the internet disturb me more than what Matthew did... I know that the abuse stopped but those pictures are still on the internet."



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Articulating the Impact of Technology-Facilitated Child Abuse

- Survivors describe "knowing that so many men have witnessed and taken pleasure" from the abuse as "excruciating" (Bazelon 2013)
- Study: 70% indicated "they worry constantly about being recognized by someone who has seen images of their abuse"
 - 30% actually were "identified by a person who had viewed" the images (CCCP 2017, p. 7)



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Sentencing and Beyond: Resisting Defense Opportunism

- Example: "Suspend internet access restrictions" –Sex Offense Litigation and Policy Resource Center
 - Historic vulnerability of children
 - Recycled and properly rejected pre-pandemic arguments
 - Failure to account for child safety
- Counter: "We are not going to accept a proposal that endangers children. If, though, you have suggestions for meeting your client's needs while still protecting the public, we are happy to explore healthy and safe options."



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Investigative Resources



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Project VIC

- Projectvic.org supplies tools to enable rapid identification of known child exploitation images via reference to datasets of known child sexual abuse material.



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Deliver Fund



SHOP DONATE

The Problem Our Plan News and Blog About Us Join the Fight Law Enforcement Corporate Clients

iHTAC

DeliverFund's International Human Trafficking Analysis Center (iHTAC) is the premier nonprofit organization for the collection, integration, analysis and dissemination of human trafficking intelligence.

BECOME A PARTNER

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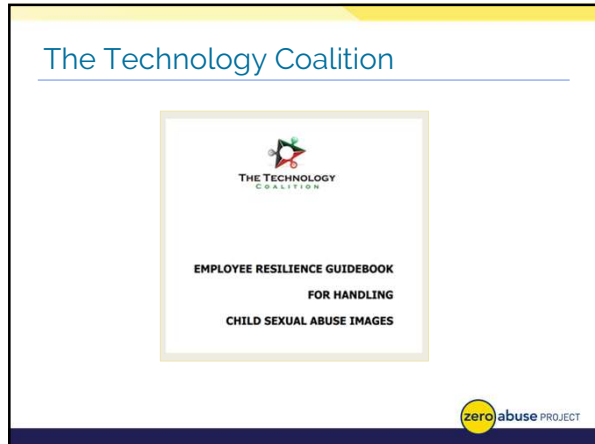
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Spotlight (Thorn)

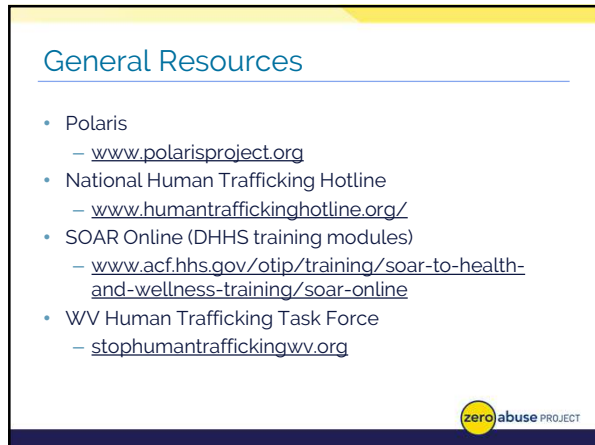
- "Spotlight is a free, industry leading tool available to any law enforcement agent working on human trafficking cases. It helps law enforcement prioritize leads by using machine learning algorithms and link analysis to surface connections and relationships between disparate data sources. With Spotlight, officers get greater insight into the full historical and geographical reach of a victim's trafficking situation. Spotlight is helping law enforcement find more kids, faster and stop future abuse."
- Source: Thorn, "Child sex trafficking is a cycle of abuse," <https://www.thorn.org/child-trafficking-statistics/>

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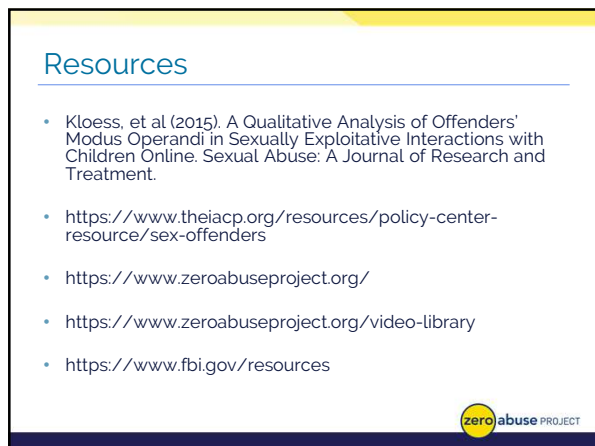
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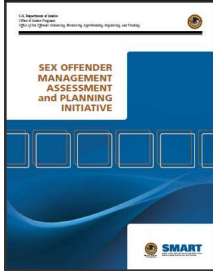
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SOMAPI

- More than 50 national experts
- Criminal justice professionals, treatment providers, researchers, medical and mental health professionals



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Responding to Child Abuse During a Pandemic: 25 Tips for MDTs

Victor L. Vieth, Robert J. Peters, Tyler Council, Rita Farrell, Rachel Johnson, Stacie Leblanc, Alison Feigh, Jane Straub and Pete Singer

"Determine that the thing can and shall be done, and then we shall find the way."
-Abraham Lincoln¹

Many child protection professionals believe child abuse is likely to increase during the COVID-19 pandemic² because most abusers are parents³ or siblings⁴ who now have more complete access to the child victim. In turn, the victim may no longer have schoolteachers, faith leaders or other mandated reporters they can access for help or who may detect a sign of abuse.⁵ Children may also have reduced access to medical and mental health providers. In responding to this concern, here are some tips Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs)⁶ may wish to employ.

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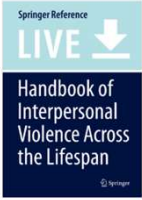
Conducting and Defending a Pandemic-Era Forensic Interview

Victor Vieth
Rita Farrell
Rachel Johnson
Robert Peters

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More Information



Handbook of Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan pp 1-21 | [Cite as](#)


Technology-Facilitated Child Abuse

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